

REMARKS

Claims 121-131 are pending in the application. Claims 121-123, 130, and 131 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 124-129 have been examined on the merits. Support for the amendment to claim 121 can be found throughout the specification. The act of detecting the interaction on the surface is taught throughout the specification. Support for the amendment to claim 129 can be found at paragraph [00145] in the application. No new matter has been inserted into the application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 129 has been objected to for being indefinite. Applicant traverses this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. However, the amended claim 129 is believed to address the Examiner's concerns.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Over Hutchens '047 (US 6,225,047)

Claims 124-129 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hutchens '047. Applicant traverses this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is reminded that in order to establish *prima facie* anticipation, each and every limitation of the presently claimed invention must be disclosed in the cited reference.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a method of determining interactive characteristics of a sample component comprising: exposing at least two surface regions, each presenting a different chemical, biochemical, or biological functionality, to a sample; and

determining an interaction pattern of the sample with the at least two surface regions on the surface, indicative of an interaction characteristic between at least one component of the sample with the at least two surface regions.

Hutchens '047 discloses methods of identifying analytes that are differentially present between two samples. The methods involve determining retention data by desorption spectrometry (Abstract). Hutchens '047 discloses surfaces or arrays, where each location is chemically different, e. g., hydrophobic or hydrophilic and so forth. Hutchens '047 further discloses in one aspect a type of drug screening process, which is carried out by attaching antibodies to a surface, mixing an agent with a target ligand, with binding or disrupting binding to the surface. But significantly, Hutchens '047 requires that the interactants are desorbed and analyzed by mass spectrometry. In other words, the actual detection step does not take place on the interaction surface.

In contrast to Hutchens '047, the presently claimed invention is directed to detecting the interactants' activities on the surface where the interaction takes place, which presents its own set of advantages and efficiency. Accordingly, Hutchens '047 fails to anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Conclusion

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request the Examiner to issue a notice of Allowance in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to further the prosecution of the present invention.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge JHK Law's Deposit Account No. **502486** for any fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and 1.17 and to credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. **502486**.

Respectfully submitted,

JHK Law

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